

Luchowfu, Anhwei
October 15, 1926

Dear Mother Corpron.

We are so glad you folks have your baby safe and sound. We watched the mail a long time for that announcement. Wont the four kiddies have good times when we are home on furlough. They will just be two nice couples.

I am glad you have really set a date for your sailing. We expected you sooner tho. Maybe it will be just as well to come in the spring and let the lovely summer at Kuling be a good introduction to China. Then the sordid cold uncomfortable winter wont be a shock. I do wish you could see Billy right now tho. I dont believe he can ever be so cute again. He is round as a butter ball with a face like a full moon. He is so much like Pop that I know he will just walk right into the empty place in your heart. I am so happy taking care of him now that I am strong and well again. I believe the half hour I spend over his bath is the most in the whole day.

Phyllis is growing up so fast now. Sunday School and kindergarten are going to do a lot for her this year. She is as big as the six year old Chinese kiddies and will soon be able to sing their songs and play their cute little games. She is so lonesome at home here for she has always had the Vierling kiddies to play with. It really lets me in for her to go to school and play. But she doesnt speak much

Chinese yet but she seems to understand more
everything they say and she will soon learn
and talk and read it much better than I do.

Our old compound is so empty now. Two
big lonesome houses with the yards grown up
to weeds. Doug has turned over one of the hospital
cookies to me for half time to work on the yards
and I have fun being out doors and bossing him.
Every thing needs to be pruned and trimmed as well
as the grass cut. we have some beautiful & rare shrubs
planted by Dr. Butchart. I wish we could hand
you some persimmons now. You'll enjoy them
next year. we have six big trees all full of
luscious fruit. I am going to have the men pick most
of them tomorrow for the magpies are pecking holes
in them. They are especially big this year. the same color
and shape as a tomato but with a taste like a plum.
We eat them every day and are giving them to all the
other foreigners as well as the Chinese doctors & nurses.

I am just thru house cleaning. My Boy has put in
all his spare time for a couple weeks until now we
look pretty fine. Doug didn't do much about cleaning
when he was here alone. It certainly was a mess ^{I got home} when

We are having quite cool weather so that I am dragging
out all our winter clothes. I have two dresses I can
still make over, thank goodness. and Laura Lyne gave me
an old coat to make over for Phyllis. we make over
things a dozen times out here. If you or your friends
have any old woolen dresses or suits or coats worth
sending out here we could always make good use
of them. Phyllis is awake and I must go dress her. my
aunt is at church.

Love
Grace

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Oct. 29, 1926.

Dearest Mother,

The snappy weather is here; in fact it gets quite cold nights. But our climate is milder than Yakima and we have garden stuff from our own garden most all winter. Right now we are having the most fun eating nice, long, snappy, white radishes, celery for soup, lettuce, beat tops, & tomatoes. Not a bad display for the 1st of November. By Thanksgiving we will have celery big enough to eat fresh. With Grace feeling like herself again, and she bossing her own cooking, we are having a great time just living.

When we returned from Kuling we fired the cook. He had "squeezed" so much on the summer buying (that is buy it for one price and then quote a higher price to Grace; they all do it in China and we get used to figuring on a small squeeze; but he was making nearly a dollar a day on his buying) and left Grace in the middle of the summer because his mother was sick, ^{he said,} and left her a supply-cook that was a bigger crook, and he left when Grace had three boarders; so Grace said she was through with him. The wash boy, who was practically an apprentice cook, is an exceptionally bright fellow, who is quick to learn and quick with his work. He stepped in and did all of the work and Grace bossed the job. They got on so well and Grace was so happy being her own cook that the combination still holds.

I have just caught up on the summer's stack of office work in the hospital. Of course that is not all that I have been doing. But that has been extra and it was no small item. I haven't taken over the eye clinic as I would like to. The new Chinese doctor is doing very well ^{after} there and now with both Vierling and Miss Blankenbiller, and Miss Parker gone from the hospital I can't seem to always be at all of every clinic. I have also sent our laboratory man down to Nanking for three months of advanced work. He was also our anesthetist and ran the Delco light plant. So we miss him a lot and it means that much more work on me. I don't like this Superintendent business a little bit. ~~I~~ I can't be a doctor the way I want to be one and be Superintendent. I liked my work last year a lot, when I had the eye clinic and could study my cases and the books on the cases I had coming daily. Thus you feel that you are being a doctor and that you are making some little progress at it. Now there are so many things that I have to be watching or that detract my attention from the patients that I lose out on being ^{able} to keep in touch with even the patients in the house. My! I'll be glad when Vierling gets back from furlough.

I'm so glad you can be so happy in Mae and Roy's home. Roy is a peach of a son-in-law if there ever was one. In Margery Ann you and Mae have a great deal in common, which no doubt helps for pleasant relations. I hope they won't feel that I am stealing you away from them next March. For really you are also my mother you know. We certainly are looking forward to the time of your arrival now. It is to

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be much more of an event in our lives than our furlough. Only we were a little disappointed when we learned that it was to be postponed until next March. We had counted on having you with us for this Xmas. We are so anxious for you to see us at home. We are so anxious to show you the interesting things of China, things that are old stuff to us now and almost ceased to be interesting. It will again be a case of the little boy's, "Look Mama! Look! Look! "

You can bring your money either as gold drafts, such as you send us, made out to you or as Traveler's Checks. In either case you will have to deposit them in a bank in Shanghai before leaving there. You will probably want to open up two separate accounts. One a U.S. Gold savings account, and one a small checking account in Mexican Dollars. Exchange is very good from Gold into Mex. now, but it may be different then. This time last year \$100 gold changed for about Mex. \$175. Then the U.C.M.S. lost on all of our salaries for they continued to give us 2 for 1. Now exchange is \$100 gold brings \$242 mex. Still we get our 2 for 1, for they must get back a little they lost on us last year.

You will be met at Shanghai; you will be introduced to the bank and shown how to open an account in China, a mail-order checking account. I hope I can do the meeting myself, but, ~~that~~ may be impossible for me to do it in Shanghai. I may have to let Mr. Marx do it for me as he offered to do. Well we will let March decide that.

Our Chrysanthemums are just opening up now, and they are beautiful. The Mum season is the most colorful we have in Luchowfu. This year we have 350 to 400 plants. Fifty of them are potted. The rest line our two sidewalks. Those lining the walks are mostly plain yellows and whites, which open at different times. The potted ones are larger varieties, reds, yellows, pinks, bally ones, spidery ones, starry ones, feathery ones, etc.

We are all well now. Last week Phyllis Ann had a bad case of tonsillitis, but she is over it now. We will have them out the first good chance we have after a month or month and a half. Nothing the matter with Billie Corpron. He is wearing Phyllis' last year undershirts, all of her year and a half rompers, her last spring's stockings, etc. He and she both wear her blue sweater now. It is a little bit big for him and a little bit small for her. But not so much. He weighs 21 pounds at 8 months 20 days. She is not small and weighs 33 pounds. She lost some last week. Before her tonsillitis she weighed 35 pounds. Only 15 pounds more than Billie at that time. I am well and enjoying Grace's good cooking.

Love,

Douglas.

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Nov. 5, 1926.

Dearest Mother,

Your letter of October 11th came last night and I am at least starting the answer this morning while breakfast is getting ready. I will attempt only to answer your questions in this letter for I wrote to you only a few days ago.

If you take the Empress of Russia I know you would be much more happy if you went Second Class. The type of people that go that class are our type. We did not really get acquainted with any but the folks at our own table in first class, and they were school teachers from New York. Most of the others were snobbish English, who did nothing but drink and gamble the greater part of the way over. We went down into second class often where the missionaries were and visited them there. They often came up to first class deck too. They had their meal time just after our meals had been served and the time we were eating was assigned to them as their time on the first class promenade deck.

"A" deck on the Russia is where the parlor is, also some of the best cabins are. The promenade deck there is not the best one. We were on "B" deck in an outside cabin. There were very few inside first class cabins. "B" deck is on the main promenade, the deck you walk so many times around to make a mile. It too is the deck where the games are played. "C" deck is the first class dining room, and near the stern is the second class promenade deck. It is not very large; not large enough to take long walks as on "B" deck, but large enough for you to get lots of fresh air. "C" deck is the second class cabin and dining room deck. The cabins are both inside and outside along a long passage way from the middle of the boat to the dining room at the stern. These are on both sides of the boat, of course. An outside cabin is just a shade worse than "B" stern cabins, where we were; in fact some of them are convertible into firsts if the firsts are all sold out, and the guests have only the advantage of first class deck privileges and diningroom. If you get one of these you are very O.K. They no doubt are the \$220 second class cabins as you quoted. I would recommend your getting one of them. The deck for the second class is accesable from the back of the diningroom by about ten steps, which lead up to the deck. The deck is directly below the place on "B" deck where the deck tennis is played.

After supper the first class passengers always dance. Once in a while, usually once or twice, they have an entertainment, the guests as well as the crew putting on special stunts. The second class has their own entertainments, which are held in the diningroom. The ship serves refreshments at such times. We often went down to the second class doings because we didn't dance.

On first class you are supposed to wear evening dress at night. Our table was about the only one that didn't.

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Also we were about the only one that didn't have a bottle on it.

We took our wardrobe trunk into our stateroom with us on first class. Some of the girls say that they have had roommates in second that have done the same. But we all advise not trying to do it if you can possible arrange to take the things you want in suitcases. Any way the baggage room is on the same deck, forward, as the second class and is very convenient and open for you to get things for two hours every morning if you so wish. Just put a sticker on the trunk, which they will give you, which says "Wanted". A trunk is always in the way in a cabin and suitcases can be pushed under the berth out of the way. If the weather should suddenly turn warmer as it does at Japan, you can get your lighter things out of your trunk in the baggageroom. If it gets colder you can do the same. It is sure to be real cold up near the Aleutian Islands, especially in March. In second class you needn't wear evening dress, tho it is O.K. to do so for the entertainments if you wish.

Yes we did feel out of place in first class and wished we had gone second. The cabin doors on both first and second class open in on a hall. On first the place of the outside cabins is taken by promenade deck. In second it is taken up by outside rooms, with no promenade deck there. In first the port holes are round and the same size as second. On first they open onto the deck. On second onto the sea. Second is more the center of gravity of the boat, if you get the convertible second-first cabins, and therefore I should think would have less roll than firsts, which are up in the air.

I think that answers all the questions you asked me that I have not answered in former recent letters. I'd say come second class in the highest priced convertible cabins, and enjoy your shipmates more than you would as a first class passenger. It didn't make so much difference to Grace and I for we had each other and Phyllis to entertain us. It would make quite a bit of difference to you though if you are alone. And you make such good friends on second class, friends that you are always running into or hearing about in different parts of China throughout your stay here. Also, you will stop over a day in two or three places in Japan and you want someone to see the sights with and take your picture for you at different places. I would advise you to get a handy little kodakk for your trip, and enough films to get you to Shanghai, probably five rolls.

Love,

Douglas.

P.S. The \$126 you would save, at the present rate of exchange would amount to \$300 mex. This would take care of all other travel you will be doing in China, including your summer vacation travel. And if you went back second it would be about enough to see the Hawaiian Islands on the way back.

Luchowfu - Anhwei

Nov. 30, 1926 -

Dear Florence Ann -

I have two nice letters of yours here ^{answers} to

I don't believe I have written you for half a month. I have looked and looked at your bobbed hair pictures and have decided I like it very much. It's not such a radical change from your old style as some folks - Mrs. Marx our Secretary's wife in Nanking is just back from Europe. She was one of these little fat dumpty women with hair combed straight back and a pug on the back of her head - Here she comes back from America, thirty pounds lighter from some diet food, her hair cut off and a fluffy ruffy stick out permanent wave with a spit curl bang! sixteen year old style and skirts above her knees - Maybe everybody at home looks that way now - But to me it seems foolish. She has absolutely lost her personality and hasn't put anything in its place - I feel as tho Mrs. Marx brought another woman home from America. But yours is enough like your long hair style to not shock me by the change. It just adds a modern classy look to your out fit. Your clothes are lovely - just imagine making a whole dress out of what we used to use for a blouse. I hope it wears well. I made mother a dress for Christmas out of black flowered silk very much the same pattern -

Before I forget it I want to tell you how much Phyllis loves the record you sent - "Songs for little girls". There is seldom a day goes by that she does not ask me to play it at least once. She can sing a couple of the dolly songs herself and will no doubt soon know them all. She had some little tiny Victor records but the hot weather warped some of them and not cracked the others. Edison records for kids I say! I also have just about worn the sweater out. I wore it in bed all the time last spring, it was just the right weight, my amah washed it several times and now on real snappy mornings it goes on under my wool dress. I spose we look like hicks with all the clothes we wear. Fuel is so scarce and dear. We are inclined to put on more clothes as the Chinese do and cut down on the fire. Saves lots of money and is healthy.

I meant back on the other page to ask you how you curl your hair? I spose there are new fangled methods for short locks. I can't seem to do much with my little old curling iron. So I usually go straight with an occasional kink of my own in rainy weather also how do you hold your stockings up? Can't roll em any more and corsets are supposed to be out of style. I spose you have some kind of an abdominal band with supporters. I was studying my Goss Ward catalog last night but nothing I looked very comfortable.

This is a rainy lazy day. I have not seen

a soul all day except Mrs. Faw who came in to get some embroidery work and my husband who came home long enough to consume three bowls of rice with its accompanying spinach and pork and bean curd. He is deep in plans with the local Red Cross Society. We have rumors of war all about us and plans must be made. We aren't very much worried tho for we are so isolated by our lack of roads and now the water in the river is going down too so that we are cut off all the more.

Yesterday was a lovely sunshiny day and I was out doors most all forenoon. In the afternoon we took Phyllis over to the hospital and Dr. Chew took out her tonsils. She is pretty young for it but they were quite bad and she spent two weeks in bed last month with tonsils. She isn't nearly as sick as a grown person. got up this morning and insisted on eating a big custard and then at ten o'clock drank a lot of Bill's bottle that he did not want. She has slept most of the afternoon - Is dopey and sort of sad like. Likes to have me hold and rock her. I s'pose the ether has pretty much upset her. Wed. morning.

The rain is over and we are enjoying a nice fresh morning. I am just home from talking in chapel at the girls' school. They have English

Once a week and today it was my turn. I told them two Christmas legends and even the smallest kiddies seem to understand ~~some~~ with you could have seen the little pig tailed bright eyed audience. I counted two bobbed heads in the lot but they are very unusual - about one hundred thirty in all.

Hub is quite spry this morning and hungrier than last night. Everybody ought to have their tonsils out when they are tiny. It would save lots of misery.

I am just thru giving Bill his bath. That's one joy I selfishly reserve for myself. I never let the amah do it unless I am unavoidably detained by a visitor or some such thing. He is getting absurdly fat. His little old arms are bigger than his three & a half year old sisters and so is his tummy! He splashes water all over the bath room now and would eat up the soap if I'd let him. Such a joy as he is. I am loving him especially hard for fear I never have another. Doug says absolutely not. He came so near being a widower last spring he doesn't want to try it again. It wasn't Bill's fault tho as much as it was the disease I had.

I know when these two get big and are starting off to school we are going to long for another tiny cuddly one. I shouldn't be afraid once I was

sure - I was over the spine - oh well I am not going to worry yet - There are few families that don't have at least one little accident. We'll wait and see what the future brings.

I have a perfect treasure of an amah now. I have fooled around with four - no five different ones in the course of as many months. I thought I had a pretty good one but she found the work too hard. So finally I got Gao Sao 82 which means Mrs Gao. She used to work for Mrs. Bro and expects to again when they get back from furlough. We aren't sure they are coming at all and Gao Sao 82 was getting pretty hard up waiting so she quit going to school and is glad to get back into a warm clean foreign house. Her husband was cook but no one wants him now. He is out in the country now with three of the kiddies and the oldest one is here - She goes to a free school at the Community Centre and sleeps here nights. Phyllis loves her and I am glad for her to have a playmate. Gao Sao 82 understands and can talk lots of English - good language too - none of your pigeon stuff. She raised three Bro kids - no wonder she knows little folks things. And she is so smart. Keeps my house clean, does all the baby wash, keeps Billie dry, dresses both kids. washes their dirty little fists & mouths a dozen times a day and then finds time to knit stockings while she sits by Bill in his carriage. She does so much that

I feel like an emancipated slave - For the first time in months and months I am free to be me. I have lots of pep now that I don't have to carry Billie around and get a backache - Maybe next semester I can start a Home Economics class in the girls school. I'd love to. I am getting all off the track - I could teach child care and feeding and know what I was talking about! I am enjoying the Literary Digest again and Atlantic Monthly and a half year number of a magazine called Home & Garden that Mrs. Goodwin sent me - I have never seen it before and I like it a lot - It is more practical & usable than House & Garden or others of the same type -

Doug's mother plans on sailing in March and will stay until we go home on furlough. I hope she likes China - ~~So~~ many older women are dissatisfied and brood over the filth and poverty of China - younger folk seem to throw it off. She is doing State missionary Society work and wants the experience out here to help her. Of course she will love Billie most to pieces for he is Doug all over again gets more so all the time -

Could you tell me the name of some new cook book that gives temperatures - candy - cake frosting doughnuts - deep fat potato chips etc. - Fannie Farmer does not give it -

The rest of this letter is a carbon of mother's Sunday letter. Love Grace

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Dec, 19, 1926.

Dearest Mother,

We are having a terrible time getting things up from Wuhu now. For one thing the water has gone down so that the launch runs only partway. Another thing is that there are a lot of soldiers floating around this neck of the woods, since the war between the north and the south came down the Yangtze almost to Wuhu before the winter rains stopped it. These soldiers commandeer every boat of any description and the boats stay in hiding. We had our winter supply of hard coal ordered at Wuhu (coal for the hospital and all the foreigners) and had one ton loaded when the boat was grabbed by soldiers. The water is going down so rapidly that I had to cancel the order and buy up some cheap soft coal in the city at robber prices and believe myself mighty lucky to get any.

I had an order of hospital supplies coming from Reid Bros. of San Frisco, containing my next year's supply of gauze and adhesive tape, etc. It came along O.K. to Wuhu in the usual four weeks time. But it took six weeks to get from Wuhu to Luchowfu after the sailboat left Wuhu. All this time I could get no trace of it and even sent a man down to Wuhu and back looking for it all along the way without learning a word about it. Finally it came two days ago when I had given up all hope of seeing it and had even started trying to get some of the money for it from the one who had guaranteed the sail boat, and when our supply was so near exhausted in the hospital that we had stopped all operations until further notice.

So my sun has come out again and I think I'll have a Merry Xmas after all.

Your Xmas box arrived yesterday and it promises to be the making of our Xmas cheer. You don't know how much we are dependant upon the bits of Xmas that come out to us from America. We are really quite isolated here and we eight missionaries have to make most of the Xmas that is made for this entire district. Grace got the box and the customs declaration slip so I don't know what is in it yet, so will have to wait to give my thanks later. We had to pay \$4.60 customs on it. Last year your box got thru without customs charges. This year is quite different. Everyone is gouging the foreigners now. We even have to pay internal customs or "likin" at several points along the way from Wuhu to here after having paid the regular customs at Wuhu. This is nothing but plain robbery for it is against the treaties to tax foreign goods sent to foreigners except upon entrance into the country. But treaty rights aren't worth the paper they are written on now. A hospital has more rights because it has something that is wanted and recognized as worth staying on the good side of. So if war comes this way the hospital will be the safest place in the city. The schools are unwanted and they are having hard sledding now.

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Your letter came with the check for Gold \$45 in it. I will send my letter of thanks to the givers soon. Gold exchange is so good now that it will bring us about \$100 Mex. I'll tell you what we are going to do with it. It took so much money to keep Grace in the mountains for the four months that she was recovering from the Sprue last summer that we went deep into the hole of debt. We owe the hospital over \$300; and \$150 still due on our winter supply of groceries; \$225 rent is still due on the summer house; and we are about \$100 back on our tithe. So we are going to use it to bring our tithe up to date.

Living expenses have come up about 100% in the last year. Rice the staple of Chinese living is a good gauge of this. Rice this time last year we bought for hospital use for 24 \$7 a don (a Chinese measure of about 125 lbs). Now I have to pay \$12 for the same. It hits the Chinese as well as us pretty hard.

Phyllis is saying such cute things about her grandma. To her Grandma and Santa Clause mean about the same thing. She tells everyone "Grandma sent me this and that".

She says, "Grandma don't come at all. We'll have to go and get her." "Can we go to Grandma's house?" "I broke my dolly. Grandma will send me another, won't she?" "When Grandma comes she can sleep in my bed." Everything that gets old or worn out its "Grandma will have to send me another." Grandma has a big place in her evening prayer. You have a very important place in her thinking. You see what a reception you will have when you arrive.

No I'm not surprised that you have put off your coming again. When I see you I'll know you have come. You'll have to hurry or you won't get here in time to see us off for furlough. If you leave April 28th you will arrive in Shanghai 17 days later on May 15th. So you will get up to Luchowfu about May 22nd. You will be here about a month before going with us to Kuling for about two months. I don't know that anyone can say that April will be any better than March for the trip. It's all what you draw any time of the year.

They don't examine your trunk at Vancouver. But you must bond it thru to China. You see to this at the station where you get off the train. If you have your steamer ticket with you there they check it over to the boat and bond it thru Canada without further trouble. It is examined at Shanghai upon your arrival, in a hurried way. You do not have to declare personal effects, clothes, or old things in your baggage when you arrive in Shanghai. About all I had to declare was my gun. You will be met in Shanghai and will not have to go anywhere alone. You couldn't do it without the language. Don't worry I know what it means to have things done for me as a newcomer too well to forget that.

I'm sorry I don't remember the nature of Mr. MacMillion's eye trouble or the treatment Papa was using. So much water has run under the bridge since then and I have seen so many eyes since that time that I wouldn't dare guess at the treatment. And you gave no description of the eye in your letter.

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The weather is such a contrast this winter from that of last. Last year we didn't have any rain all winter and all wells were dry and we had to have men carry water from the river a mile to the hospital for all purposes. This winter it rains five days out of every week. Today it snowed and we had ice cream for dinner.

Two nights ago we had all the adults of the station over for a Xmas candy party. We made candy until midnight and then I got a call to go out to a Chinese home and deliver a baby. As usual it was an abnormal case. They only call us when they can't get the baby out. I have had an unusual number of interesting and difficult obstetrics cases this fall since my return from the Ob. course at Peking last summer.

The bandits are getting active outside of the city again. The poor people are driven to it by want in many cases. Two days ago we admitted a man to the hospital who had been shot thru the right forearm by a bandit bullet. Yesterday we admitted three soldiers who had been shot by bandits in a surprise attack. One had a fractured arm, another a bullet in his chest with the lung sticking out, and the other a wound of his arm and the bullet lodged in the muscles of the chest wall.

Bill can wave "bye bye" now. He has been cross with getting teeth the last few days and hasn't been eating very much. He was late in getting started with his teeth but they are coming out fast now. He is as big and fat as ever. He will be walking around chairs in another month. I am enclosing some prints of him.

Love,

Douglas